

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are pending in this application. Claim 1 was rejected. Claims 1 and 3-5 have been amended by the present amendment. Claims 2 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 2-5, 7 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

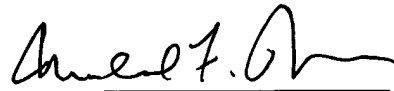
Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chareire et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,822,356). Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Bifano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,896,501).

In order to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants incorporate the limitations of claim 2 into claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a).

An early and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may telephone Applicants' Attorney to reach a prompt disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Morano", written over a horizontal line.

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